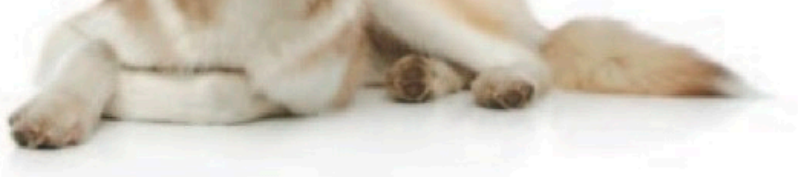


Jody loved him, and she had a good throwing arm! His aunties unanimously approved, and the match was made. He went to his new home the next day. But that was just the start.

This is where I think we hit upon something noteworthy. Altogether, our group had more than a century of dog “know-how” to offer a rookie, and, boy, were we eager to share it. Jody, perhaps sensing that she had no alternative, graciously accepted our coaching/mentoring offers. She upheld her end by asking many questions and providing us with updates on how she and Dexter were doing. For bonus points, she e-mailed us delightful photos. This made for a smoother transition into a new life-with-dog routine. I’m confident that she could have done it without us, but she said that knowing she could rely on us gave her significant peace of mind.

Wouldn’t it be great if other dog adoptions, especially to first-timers, came with this sort of support? Kind of like Apple’s “genius bar,” people



COOL DIGS

Alejandro Pijuan, designer with LA architectural firm Johnson Fain, puts his talent where his heart is. His two-year-old Siberian inspired him to create the Dog Retreat shown here as his entry in JF’s “Furniture Group” exhibition (re-jf.com).

To widen the net, Pijuan used Facebook to solicit input from Husky owners about what kinds of things their dogs would love, and incorporated many of the suggestions. The Dog Retreat will be auctioned off in early 2013, with proceeds going to Pijuan’s favorite Husky rescue group, Alley’s Rescued Angels (alleysrescuedangels.org). On view during the month of December at the WUHO Gallery, Hollywood, Calif.

